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LB 709

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would to return for specific amendment, AM1345. (Legislative Journal page 1327.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment to return.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I'm not going to withdraw this amendment. I had offered a similar one to what I'm offering today on Select File. There were some problems with it and Senator Erdman requested that I agree to let the bill go forward, get the amendment in proper form, then bring the bill back. And I wanted to get from him the assurance that that was not a stratagem to avoid dealing with my amendment, so I let that bill go. I did some work on the amendment and what you see on your gadget is what I'm offering. I don't remember the details of that first amendment that I had offered, but part of it may have run into some problems with reference to employee privacy and some other matters, some federal laws, so let me read you what my amendment is talking about. First of all, it is to get some information from these companies that receive tax incentives under various laws that have been enacted by the Legislature. Since they're getting these benefits, they are the ones that this kind of information could easily be requested from. The director of Health and Human Services and the Tax Commissioner shall annually prepare an employee health report, and this is the information that would be sought from these companies: one, the name and address of the business; two, the number of full-time and part-time employees of the business; three, whether the business offers health benefits to its employees and, if so, the nature and scope of the health benefits. And on some of this language I worked with Senator Jensen's staff. When we put "scope," we didn't want to itemize every type of possible insurance coverage that might be possible, so that term was used. Number four, the number of full-time and part-time employees and the number of spouses or dependents of such employees who are covered under health benefits offered by the business and the nature and scope of such coverage. The report shall be submitted annually on February 1 to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature. Now, there are people in this Legislature who have employees and they